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<u>C</u>ENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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Free Thai and Police Influence in Politics

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7 January 1947

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> Two incidents which occurred the last week in December 1946 appear to bear out charges made by the Democratic Party that the Free Thai underground group and Siamese police are political tools of the coup detat group now in power:

- An officer of the Criminal Investigation Department admitted in court during the trial of Nai Aroon's case to disqualify Nei Direk Jaiyanama as a winner in the Bangkok August by-elections that he had been detailed to attend Democratic Party meetings. This admission was made by the CID officer in response to questioning by Phya Prida, Nai Aroon's father. (?Nai Aroon Saengsawan Vatana?). The case was brought to court as Nai Direk had defeated Nai Aroon by only a score of votes, although both candidates polled a record vote.
- The Siamese language daily SERI reported that Free Thais who recently met in Hua Hin are still politically active and are using government funds. As a result of this article, the direction of SERI, Nai Bamrung Kritsart, was arrested 30 December by CID and held incommunicado without bail. Police Chief Phra Phicharn Pholakit told nawsmen Nai Bemrung had been arrested for charging that the present government fostered a Communist platform; members of the SERI staff discredit this explanation.
- The arrest of the editor of SERI is reported to be the first of many planned by the government, now that Parliament has adjourned. Premier Thamrong told the press action would have to be taken against certain papers, specifically KIATISAK, for "indiscreet methods". The Premier has discontinued regular press interviews and can only be reached by newspapermen through a strict secretarial cordon.
- The Free Thai influence in politics is illustrated by the fact that all ministerial secretarists are held by young Free Thai members regardless of training. A group of over two hundred Free Thais were guests at a dinner given by the Minister of Finance, Wichit Lulithanon, 29 December. The principal toast of the evening was drunk to Pridi Bhanomyong.

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